

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed August 2, 2004. Claims 1-26,28,29 were rejected. Claim 27 was objected to. The claims have been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner.

Claims 1-29 were originally presented. Claims 1-29 remain in the application. Claims 1-3, 13, 22, 23, and 28 have been amended. Claims 30-40 have been added. Support for the amendments appears in the specification, and antecedent basis for the language of the amendments appears at least at p. 15, line 7 with respect to distinguishing image capture devices; and at least on p. 6 line 6 with respect to providing choice of peripherals to connect/bundle at the printer.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claim 27, if rewritten in independent form, is acknowledged with appreciation. Claim 30 includes said subject matter.

New claims 31-40 are directed to allowable subject matter in light of the references cited by the Examiner. They are narrower in scope than the claims originally presented.

The following discussion will primarily address the rejections of the independent claims, bearing in mind that if allowability of the independent claims is established, allowability of the dependant claims is established for at least the same reasons, these claims being more narrow in scope than the independent claims from which they depend.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-26,28, 29 (including independent claims 1, 13, 22 and 28) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Mui in view of Watanabi.

The Mui and Watanabi references, when combined, do not teach or suggest all of the elements of amended claims. Specifically, the Mui and Watanabi references are both generally directed to providing copier functionality by providing a scanner with a printer. For at least this reason the Mui reference does not teach creating a peripheral node where a plurality of additional peripheral devices can be connected and sited at the location of the printer; nor does it teach providing at least one peripheral at the site of the printer that is not an image capture device. The Watanabi reference does not overcome these deficiencies. In contrast, each of the independent amended claims includes at least one of these elements.

Moreover, the cited references teach away from the subject matter of the claims now in the application, as they are directed to combining a printer and a scanner together to leverage the two into a copier while allowing them to function conventionally. In contrast, the combinations set forth in the amended claims of this application concern providing for enabling the placement, powering, and data communication connection of at least one peripheral device that is not concerned with a copier functionality, and/or enabling connection of one or more of multiple devices, as a matter of choice, at the printer location (which may include a scanner, but also includes the capability of connecting more/other devices than just a scanner at the printer location).

Support for the amendments appears in the specification, and antecedent basis for the language of the amendments appears at least at p. 15, line 7 with respect to distinguishing image capture devices, and at least on p. 6 line 6 with respect to providing choice of peripherals to connect/bundle at the printer.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 13, 22, and 28, as well as new claim 31 are allowable for at least these reasons. The subject matter of claim 30 was previously identified as allowable. Applicant urges the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 13, 22 and 28, and to allow all the independent claims. As mentioned, the dependant claims are allowable for at least the same reasons, and reconsideration of all the claims is therefore requested.

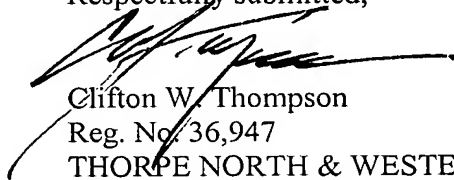
CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-40 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue.

Claims were added, including independent claims 30 and 31, and dependant claims 32-40. Additional excess claim fees in the amount of \$370 are therefore due per 37 CFR 1.16 (b) and (c). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

DATED this 30th day of August, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,


Clifton W. Thompson
Reg. No. 36,947
THORPE NORTH & WESTERN, LLP
P.O. Box 1219
Sandy, Utah 84091-1219
Telephone: (801) 566-6633

H:\FILES\20000\20022\Amendment1.doc